GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5772
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY PROJECT
PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount and form of World Bank assistance for the National Agriculture Technology Project;

(b) the schedule for completion of the project and its present status;

(c) the reasons for the delay and the action taken thereon; and

(d) the amount earmarked for training of manpower and the procedure followed for selection of the consultants for the purpose including the prescription of qualification and experience for the purpose?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) The total cost of the World Bank Assisted National Agricultural Technology Project is US $ 239.7 million.The World Bank will contribute 82% of the total cost (US$ 196.8 million) while the GOI`s share will be 18% (US$ 42.9 milllion).The total bank assistance will comprise IDA credit of SDR 73.8 million (US $ 100.00 million Equivalent) and US$ 96.8 million as IBRD loan at the usual rate o interest.

(b) The project is approved for 5 years (w.e.f. November 19, 1998). Component-wise status (As on 31.3.2000) is given below.

i) Agro-Ecosystem Research : Two hundred eleven research programmes under different modes with a budget provision of Rs. 359.00 crores are approved. Mode-wise status is : Team of Excellence (26 No., 33.26 crores). Mission Mode (26 NO. 124.50 crores); Production System Research Mode (175 No., 183.00 crores); Technology Assessment and Refinement through Institute Village Linkage Programme (44 No., 6.07 crores) and Competitive Grant Programme (44 No., 12.50 crores).

ii) Innovations in Technology Dissemination (ITD) : Under the ICAR component of the ITD, 53 Zonal Research Stations (ZRS remanded to function as KVKs have been identified and sanction issued. Forty Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATICs) have also been established. In addition, 8 Directorate of Extension Education in SAUs and 29 zonal coordinating units are being strengthened. The DAC component of ITD is being implemented in six states namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Punjab.ATMAs have been established in each of the six states. The State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institutes (SAMETIS) are being strengthened to train the farmers and extension workersStrategic Research and Extension Plans (SREPs) for the selected districts have been finalized for planning interventions.

iii) Organisation and Management (O & M) system : O & M System cover activities related to i) Organization and Management (O & M) reforms in ICAR, ii) Strengthening of ICAR Headquarters, National Agricultural Science Centre (NASC), Directorate of Informatic & Publication on Agriculture (DIPA) and PIU-NATP, iii) Institutionalization of Priority Setting Mechanism, Monitoring and Evaluatior (PM&E) and iv) Information System Development (ISD) covering Agricultural Research Information Service (ARIS) and Librar Information and Networking.

(c) There was slight delay in implementation of the programmes at initial stage. Efforts are being made to expeditiously execute the approved training and procurement component which are behind the schedule.

(d) An amount of Rs. 68.58 crores is earmarked for training of manpower. The number of overseas consultants is kept restricted. Preference is given to scientists at Associate Professor level, instead of Heads of Departments/Professors to keep the costs low. Consultants are normally identified from the same Institutions where the scientists are proceeding for Training.